

## **Butte Fire Safe Council could get \$100,000 for wood chipper program**

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AUBURN — A Butte County Fire Safe Council project is one of several statewide recommended for a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The governing board of Sierra Nevada Conservancy will meet Sept. 5-6 to consider awarding \$2.5 million in grants designed to reduce the risk of forest fires and protect watersheds.

The decision is for the second phase of the conservancy's Healthy Forests program. The conservancy typically grants money for fuel reduction projects (removing underbrush and thinning smaller-diameter trees), forest and meadow restoration, and removal of invasive plant species.

If awarded, the Butte Fire Safe Council will receive \$100,000 for its Forest Health Chipper Program.

Through the program, the council takes vegetation chippers to landowners to help reduce natural fire hazards on their property, providing an alternative to pile burning or hauling waste to a landfill, according to the grant proposal.

The chipper program serves 23 communities within Butte County's major watersheds. The money would help up to 600 landowners.

Butte Fire Safe Council would provide \$10,000 in-kind services with the grant.

The grants are funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 2006.